



Introduction

LEONARD WERTHEIMER

SOME THIRTY YEARS AGO a humorous manual for tourists, *Savoir Vivre International* (Odé, 1950), informed its readers that Australia was entirely Anglo-Saxon. The situation has completely changed after World War II, and not only in Australia.

The accelerated economy of Germany, the Netherlands and Scandinavia has attracted temporary workers from southern and southeastern Europe; political unrest and adverse economic conditions have induced others to leave their countries and to settle permanently in others. In both cases the host countries have been faced with unexpected problems and tasks, caused by the presence of people with different languages, different ways of life, different expectations of public services. The pressing needs of housing, health, education, and work have obscured the equally vital role of public libraries.

Unfortunately, libraries were not prepared or equipped to carry out the new tasks; with no reliable information or examples at hand, each library has responded as best it could, searching for suitable personnel, for materials, for practical methods. Because this new service has not found its way into curricula of library science courses (except for isolated instances), and because published literature on the subject is scanty, it seemed desirable to bring together, in one issue of *Library Trends*, a collection of articles that would serve as a resource to librarians in many parts of the world. In the following pages, fourteen articles on various aspects of the new problems and some solutions are presented by a panel of distinguished authors from seven countries.

Leonard Wertheimer is a former Languages Coordinator, Metropolitan Toronto Library Board.

The overall subject to be discussed might be roughly stated as "the foreigner and his literature," but this would be misleading. For one thing, in some countries the adjective *foreign*, when applied to languages spoken by *citizens* of a country, is inaccurate to the point of being offensive. (Nevertheless, the word has been retained in the articles as and when used by the authors.) The articles attempt to deal with the principles, philosophy and practice of library services to minorities. Book acquisition is, of course, part of that practice, but there are several good manuals on foreign books acquisition, though these principally cater to the needs of colleges and universities. The more recently established services to ethnic minorities are, so far, reflected in but a scanty body of literature, widely scattered and lacking a link. It is hoped that this collection will bring together useful information and stimulate further development and progress in this vital area.

It seemed convenient to group the articles under four main headings. First is the nature and sociology of the target groups. David Cohen deals with ethnicity in its philosophical and social aspects. The world-wide significance of immigration is examined by H.C. Campbell, who pioneered library work for ethnic groups in Toronto. The particular situation of migrant (i.e., temporary) workers is explained by Johannes Fest, who did field research for the German federal government. The second section deals with the library functions necessitated by the situation previously described. Anna Lisa Wargren, of the Swedish Bibliotekstjänst, describes the difficulties of book acquisition and how, in Sweden, they are overcome. One of the most difficult yet necessary tasks, that of cataloging material in unfamiliar languages (and sometimes in non-Roman script) for bibliographic access, is expertly treated by Hans Wellisch, whose writings on the subject are numerous; and finally a rundown on the still inadequate training given at library schools is provided by Sylva Simsova, herself a distinguished teacher in London. In the third section, library services in five countries are described by authors actively engaged in their organization. Natalia Bezugloff reports on the state of the art in the United States, Marie Zielinska on Canada, Radha Rasmussen and Ivan Kolarik on Australia, Hans Vogt on Germany, and P.D. Stepanov on the far north of the U.S.S.R. The fourth section deals with special groups. Ruth Wertheimer and Kathleen Foy survey services to children of immigrants and their descendants, and Alois Stadler writes on children of migrant workers. Finally, Richard Heyser and Lotsee Smith present a statistical overview of library services to North American natives, i.e., Indians, Inuits (Eskimos) and others.

Introduction

There may be disappointment at the restricted number of countries discussed here. Cultural pluralism, or at least culturally heterogeneous populations, exist in many countries. The editor can only advance weak explanations: efforts to secure contributions for India and Czechoslovakia were unsuccessful; more importantly, the knowledge and contacts of the editor and his collaborators were confined precisely to the countries here represented. It is in these countries, according to information obtained from *Library and Information Science Abstracts* and *Library Literature*, that the impact of immigration and migration is felt and responded to most by public libraries.

Those who read several, or perchance all, of the articles, will notice some similarity, even repetition, of certain points among them. This only demonstrates the similarity of the situations in the countries reported on, and of the authors' experiences. Rather than weaken the authors' papers, the editor asks the reader's indulgence and patience. Concerned readers are also earnestly encouraged to make use of the bibliographic references appended to most of the articles. (For reasons of space some citations were reduced, provided sources for further reference were given.)

We hope, however, that the present volume is not the last word on the subject, but that, on the contrary, it will initiate further research which will do better justice to the vital subject than does this modest effort.

Immense gratitude is owed to the authors, many of whom went to extraordinary efforts to prepare and deliver their articles under pressure of work and other commitments, even from a sickbed; to Marie Zielinska, who proposed the topic to the *Library Trends* Publications Committee, and to the committee for accepting it; and to the editor's wife, Ruth, who, besides coauthoring the article on services for children, assumed a major share in reading and editing the manuscripts.

Note. Wherever "English" is mentioned it means the *dominant* language of a country, and can be adapted *mutatis mutandis* to other countries; similarly "foreign" refers to a language other than the dominant one, and which is foreign to the dominant majority.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank